GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEFENCE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2536
ANSWERED ON:17.03.2017
Shortage of Assault Rifles
Puttaraju Shri C.S.;Udhayakumar Shri M.

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is shortage of assault rifles in the Army and if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(b) whether due to delay in acquiring world class rifles for its soldiers, the Army proposes to induct the indigenously developed Excalibur and if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Army has been trying to replace INSAS and had launched an ambitious global tender for inter-changeable barrels capable of firing both 5.56 mm and 7.62 mm calibre bullets; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (DR. SUBHASH BHAMRE)
IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
????? ????? ?????? (??. ????? ?????)

(a) No, Madam.

(b) to (d): A Request for Proposal (RFP) was issued for procurement of dual calibre Assault Rifle in November, 2011. However, as equipment fielded for trials did not fulfil the General Staff Qualitative Requirements (GSQRs), the RFP was retracted in June, 2015. Subsequently, a fresh process has been initiated to procure new Assault Rifles which would meet desired operational parameters.
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